



HI-Q



Thunder Bay, Ontario

Volume 79

March 2013

Issue 3

A Visit with CO2KK

By Fred Lesnick VE3FAL

Last Saturday Feb 16, 2013, Teresa and myself had the great opportunity to spend the day with Arnie Coro CO2KK and his family in Havana Cuba.

Teresa and Roxana and their daughter Claudia chatted up a storm while Arnie showed me his antenna setup on their home in Havana and we talked about Emergency Communications and test gear and repairing electronics equipment. Prof. Coro, of course, puts a number of shows on in Cuba over radio stations on the island and of course his fame is DXers Unlimited of Radio Havana Cuba.

We talked about 40 meters being the band of choice during hurricane season and how much amateur radio is a valued asset on the island. Much of the gear are homebrew units made from old TV parts and even diodes and stuff from CFL's. Tubes are plentiful on the island after the Soviets pulled out and left boxes of transmitting and receiving tubes.

Arnie uses a German DDR SEG15d radio set to 7.110, which is the islands main frequency. He is working on a 30 year old Kenwood radio currently that has some bad capacitors in it. I brought Arnie an ESR meter so he can test and repair gear without ripping parts out and wrecking boards and will make repair times and parts sourcing much easier for him and his radio group. He is a very active voice amongst the radio Society in Cuba and is working hard to get more amateurs involved on the island.

This was a long overdue visit as I was supposed to meet him 8 years ago when I was last in Cuba but he was called away to Germany for a Radio Conference. I have been a listener of RHC since a young boy and Prof. Coro and his shows have always been among my favourites. He does many more than just DXers Unlimited. Listen to Radio Havana Cuba nightly on 6.000 Mhz for great music and commentary. Arnie and the amateur

group in Cuba have done well with Emergency Communications on the island during many bad hurricanes with, to us, would be very marginal equipment and still get the messages through. So I guess my message is - we can do it too, although our Province is much larger than the Island of Cuba, but still an important task for us to partake in.



In the picture from left to right::Arnie CO2KK, Claudia, Roxana CL2ROX, Teresa VE3TLL and myself Fred VE3FAL



LARC SENATE

Keith Fiske VE3JQ SK
Pat Doherty VE3PD
Dave Kimpton VE3AVS
Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD
Terry Stewardson VA3LU
Ed Baumann VE3SNW

LARC EXECUTIVE

President - vacant

Vice President - vacant

**Secretary - Jeff Cederwall
VE3JTD**

Treasurer -Paul Curtin VA3PDC

Directors

**Terry Stewardson VA3LU
Lori Bedford VE3VAI
Bill Unger VE3XT**

LARC Emergency Coordinator

Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628

ARES District Emergency**Coordinator**

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789

CANWARN

**VA3JMS John 767-3631
VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628**

Public Service Events

VA3JMS John 767-3631

Accredited Examiners

**VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789
flesnick@tbaytel.net
VE3VAI Lori Bedford 622 – 6386
ve3vai@tbaytel.net**

ABOUT US

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to ve3snw@shaw.ca

Nets in the Thunder Bay Area

Sunday AMETHYST ARES VHF NET, on VE3TBR 146.820- pl 107.2 IRLP Ref. # 9031 @ 0045Z (7:45 pm), also Cook County ARES Response Team (CARRT) net at 0100Z (8 pm) on the BWARC repeater, Grand Portage repeater - 146.655 with CTCSS 151.4

Monday SATERN NET on VE3TBR 146.820- pl 107.2 IRLP Ref. # 9032

SATERN DIGITAL NETS on **Monday & Wednesday** nights

8 pm- 14.065

9 pm- 7.065

10 pm- 3.5835

Mode :Olivia 8/500 1000Hz waterfall centre

Tuesday 2M/ LARC ARES NET on VE3YQT 147.060- @ 7:00PM ET, and after this net is the new THUNDER BAY ARES DIGITAL NET on PSK31 between 1000 & 2000 WATERFALL 145.050 FM mode @ 7:30PM (usually starts after the 2m/ ares net)

Every Day The NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ARES NET , every evening at 8:15PM (local) on 80m 3.750Mhz (note the time does not change with daylight savings time.)

Any questions on these or other nets please feel free to contact me at my e-mail: ve3mxj@rac.ca

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2

442.075 (+5 MHz)pl 100

144.390 APRS

VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

A Tiny Part of Fort William Returns

By Bill Unger VE3XT

Oh oh, if you're thinking here comes Unger with another long rambling story, you would be correct. So get comfy and read on.

Last summer was the 100th Anniversary of the Hymers Fair and the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club was operating with the special call VX3FAIR. While manning the booth and explaining radio to the visitor's one gentleman stopped by and seem very interested and knowledgeable about Amateur Radio. David Albu explained his Mother in Law lived in Hymers and his wife grew up there, so it was a bit of an annual pilgrimage to visit the fair. He mentioned that he has had a long interest in SWL'ing. When he was young he started SWL'ing and has never lost his interest in it. Like many of us life gets in the way and he said he didn't have as much time as he wanted to SWL now. But with retirement on the horizon he hope d to start it up again.

He also mentioned he had a special item that would be of interest to Amateurs in Thunder Bay and when he returned to Windsor he would pack it up and send it to me. I hadn't heard from David until last month when I got an email asking if I still wanted him to send the item to me. I said yes and he said it was on the way.

A week or so later I received a package in the mail and it was from David and definitely an open me first piece of mail. When I opened the package there were approximately 40 QSL cards from the estate of W5BNQ from all over the world covering a time period from 1930's to the late 1970's. David said he found them on EBAY and W5BNQ's widow was selling them. They are a wonderful way to explore the history of Amateur Radio over this time period. W5BNQ must have been a bit of a DX'er station as he worked over 31 countries in this time period. But there was one more card that was not sent to W5BNQ but it was sent to W5AQU. Both operators have the same name so I suspect W5AQU later became W5BNQ for some reason. What made this one QSL card so special it was sent to W5AQU from Pat O'Shea, VE3FW. It was dated January 2, 1933. Pat was receiving on a 2TRF (2 Tube Tuned Radio Frequency) Detector using 227 tubes and his transmitter was MOPA (Master Oscillator Power Amplifier) using a 45 and a 46 tube as the final. The final had a plate voltage of 500V and 100 mA to a Single Wire Hertz. Assuming a PA efficiency of about 70% his output was about 35W. I always liked the stories of Pat, but now that I know he was a bit of a QRP'er he is even better!

I phoned David and had a nice long conversation with him and he told me he has a collection of old Boat Anchor Receivers such as Hammerlunds and Halicrafters. He mentioned that as a young Cub Scout he went to a local Amateurs Station and it sparked his interest in SWL'ing. He will be back in Thunder Bay next summer and I hope to see him again at the Hymers fair. I even but a bit of a strong arm on him and tried to convince him to get his ticket. Hi Hi.

And here is the photograph of Pat O'Shea's QSL from January 2, 1933.



North East Ontario Regional Directors Report for March, 2013



On February 15th to the 17th RAC Directors, Deputy Directors, the President and Executive Members met for a face to face planning session in Ottawa. Prior to this meeting all of our deliberations over the last several meetings dealt with the fact RAC was going broke. That is no longer the case and in 2013 our books will show a small profit In addition to increasing our reserves membership is continuing to increase. We now have approximately 260 Maple Leaf Members; 3 years ago we had none. If you have recently become a member or renewed your membership, THANK YOU. If you have let your membership lapse would you please take a moment and send me an email telling me why?

The main purpose of the meeting was to map out the future of RAC for the time frame of the next 2+ years. The 3 primary goals we have set for ourselves are as follows:

- Grow the number of Amateurs in Canada
- Grow the membership of RAC
- Influence public and political opinion on a National, Provincial and Municipal level to protect and enhance Amateur Radio Privileges

As we roll out new ideas you will be kept up to date on our progress. In an effort to hear from more Amateurs RAC has purchased software called Go to Meeting and Go to Webinar. This will allow us to set up group meetings between Executive and Amateurs around the region. This will increase two way dialogs. I hope to begin these sessions in May. Some of the Amateurs I hope to meet with are Deputy and Assistant Directors, Club Presidents, Section Managers and their teams. This would also allow us to start webinars on other topics: DX, QRP, µControllers, Antennas or whatever subjects you care to talk about. If you have some expertise and are willing to share it with fellow Canadian Amateurs let me know.

I am also available to meet with any of your clubs via Skype in the meantime. Let me know if you or your club is interested.

Rita and I will be taking a holiday and I will still have email but it may take a little longer to reply for the next little while. Thanks for your patience.

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at ve3xt@rac.ca

Bill VE3XT
North East Ontario Regional Director
Radio Amateurs of Canada



SKCC QRP Activities
Fred Lesnick VE3FAL
SKCC QRP Awards Manager

The SKCC club is a group of amateur radio operators who enjoy using straight keys, bugs and cootie keys, almost anything that is not electronically keyed works well with this group. We even have fun events that offer extra points for homebrew keys and junk box keys. But not only do we have these fun events we also have QRP Awards within the group that can be earned by fellow SKCC members.

I took on the task of being the SKCC QRP awards manager some time back, my SKCC # is 50, note I do not have a "C" or "T" attached to it yet, why? I have been trying to get my "C" while operating QRP only from my end. The "C" represents working 100 SKCC members and exchanging their SKCC# and yours.

So I am almost there but with my limited operating times it makes it difficult to get those last dozen QSO's in there to finish off this task. I have been a special event station and operated QRO for those events and could have easily obtained my "C", but because I am a stubborn QRPer I am insistent on doing it the QRP way from my end.

So does the SKCC Club have and offer QRP awards? Yes we do. And for completing these you can print out a nice certificate to hang on the wall to show off your accomplishments'. All by operating QRP with a non-electronic keying device and working other SKCC members, how much more fun could this get?

The two basic QRP awards are as follows:

This award is based on a points system to allow the QRPer a chance to shine at one of two levels. The **1xQRP** award requires only that the applying station operate QRP as he or she accumulates points. The **2xQRP** award requires that both stations in an exchange be operating at QRP power levels. For the 2xQRP award, the other station may start the QSO at high power, but must drop to QRP power levels to exchange RST, SKCC numbers, and power levels.

Both operators must be using a straight key, sideswiper, or bug for a QSO to qualify for either QRP award. The same station can be worked on all bands, but only once per band for each award.

Logging details should include the following:

For 1xQRP: Date and time (both in UTC), band or frequency, SKCC number from both stations, and the power level from the applying station.

For 2xQRP: All of the above, plus the other operator's power level to confirm a 2xQRP QSO.

This information is needed so that when the award manager sends a check log to a station, that operator can easily find and verify the QSOs.

QSO points are distributed by band to encourage use of the lower bands. Any band can be used to collect points for this award.

The points are as follows:

- 4 points for 160m
- 3 points for 80m, 10m
- 2 points for 40m, 30m
- 1 point for 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m
- 0.5 point for 6m and 2m

An applicant must accumulate 300 points for the 1xQRP award, and 150 points for the 2XQRP award.

Here is a picture of some of my keys that I operate with:



These are my straight keys with Japanese, Chinese, USA, UK, homebrew, VizKey and the bencher has been turned into a cootie, the Russian leg key and mini key.

Information and more about the SKCC club and awards can be found at:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/>

Hope to see you on the air.

Fred Lesnick VE3FAL

Thunder Bay, ON

Some Thoughts on Ham Radio via the CQ-Contest reflector - and sent in by Tom VE3CX

We don't think we will ever get bored with ham radio..... even after 58 years on the bands

It still has that "mysterious" something to it

If I make noise or blow a horn ... or even flash a light some one may hear or see it 4 or 5 houses away ...

Yet with no more power than a 100 watt light bulb which you might see a mile away on a clear night

I can talk to to some one 12,000 miles away

There is "nothing" else like it that I can do sitting in my home

I do not have to leave the house do not need special shoes...weather is not an issue ...

I do not need some one on the other side of a netor try to put a small white ball into a hole in the ground ...with totally inadequate tools .

..... something I would never get good at .. no matter how many years

We can achieve many personal goal that no one cares about but me ...WAS WAC ... DXCC... Honor Roll .. etc..

And above all that it is STILL FUN Contests DX ... State QSO Parties ...Lighthouse Operating ..

There is always something

KB Whitey K1VV / W1AA

A Video about Ham Radio!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMWn5HkFPnU>

MUSH FOR A CURE

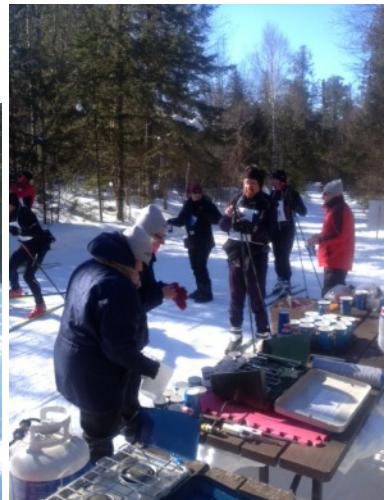
On March 9, Randy VA3OJ and wife Heather set out for a day trip to Grand Marais to help with radio comms at the MUSH FOR A CURE breast cancer fund raising event held up the Gunflint Trail in Minnesota.

The race starts with a bang. A shotgun is fired to wake the mushers who are fast asleep in a sleeping bag on the snow. The musher must get up and load his sled and then harness the dogs and attach them to the sled. Once all of this is done, the true stars of the show come to life. Teams of 5 to 8 dogs go racing across Gunflint Lake. The route takes them to Trail Centre where the finish line is. Along the way, ham radio operators check the teams through the checkpoints. All teams are carefully marked and accounted for and the sweep snowmobile follows along to make sure no one is left stranded. This is the first time I have been to a start of one of these races. Imagine if you can, 24 teams with 8 dogs that are wound tighter than springs, all barking and pulling, just for the fun of it. One team of 8 is so excited that they had to be tied to the handler's truck and was shaking back and forth from the dogs pulling. The real reason that everyone is excited is that this community event raised near 40,000 dollars for research purposes in the northland. For those 40,000 reasons, the volunteers and event coordinators deserve a big congrats. Here is hoping that the pictures will encourage others to come and enjoy this event, as it is truly a family event. There was even a gent and his dogs from Louisiana that have never run on snow. There were a team of Brittany Spaniels that are not sled dogs but have enough energy to pull a small sled. So you can see that it is a great event and a great way to spend a day out in the country that we call home.

Thanks
Randy
VA3OJ



Scenes from the Sibley Ski Loppet 2013



Minutes for the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club
General Meeting
Date: February 14, 2013
Randy Gottfred VA3OJ presiding.

1. Presentation: Phil Moorey VE3AXL

Phil gave a presentation on the Elecraft KX3 ultra compact transceiver and its features, functions and operation.

2 Treasurer's Report: Paul Curtin VA3PDC

A motion to accept the treasurer's report as published in Hi Q was made by Paul Curtin VA3PDC. The motion was seconded by Karl Hamelton VE3RRP. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Meeting Minutes: Jeff Cederwall VE3JTD

A motion to accept the minutes as published in Hi Q was made by Jeff Cederwall VE3JTD. The motion was seconded by Karl Hamelton VE3RRP. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Service: Norm Bell VE3XRC / Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

A. Sibley Ski Tour: March 2nd

Volunteers will be using 146.520MHz.

Norm Bell VE3XRC announced that he will no longer be organizing the Ski tour. Terry Stewardson VA3LU also announces that he will no longer be participating as net control.

B. Mush for a Cure: March 9th

The event will be starting at 1PM EST radio operators are still required to check your email for more information.

C. John Beargrease Sled Dog Race March 10th – 12th Any interested parties should contact Randy Gottfred VA3OJ for the schedule.

5. ARES: Karl Hamelton VE3RRP

ARES is continuing its nets Tuesday nights at 7:30PM on VE3YQT repeater.

6. Repeater News: Terry Stewardson VA3LU:

VE3TBR repeater IRLP and APRS are operational.

Upsala repeater is off the air due to controller problems and to check the duplexer. Note: The digipeater at VE3RRP's QTH is operational.

7. Trailer report: The trailer is still in storage.

8. New Business

A. Annual Supper Meeting:

The annual supper meeting will be taking place on April 11th 6PM at Chicago Joes.

b. George Dow VE3DOW nominates Jeff Cederwall VE3JTD as club president. Phil Moorey VE3AXL Seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

c. Paul Curtin VA3PDC motions to pay the mail box rental renewal either for a year (\$149.95) or two (\$274.95). Norm Bell VE3XRC seconds the motion. The motion passes with the consensus of paying the two year fee.

d. Randy Gottfred gave a presentation of some items that are for sale from Cliff Pratt's Estate. Please contact Randy at VA3OJ@rac.ca or prattk@tbaytel.net for more details. A bulk email will follow.

Prez Sez

Hello all,

First off I would like to thank Norm Bell VE3XRC and Terry Stewardson VA3LU for their numerous years of service to the Sibley Ski tour. I would also like to thank all of the other volunteers for their service at the ski tour. This year like others was a complete success. To my knowledge there were no serious injuries to speak of.

It looks like spring is on the way and it is time to start thinking about field day. What venue will the club use and what kind of set up. An article I once read talked about using a weather balloon as a support for a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave vertical on 80M. This is something I would like to try some time, any takers? Unrelated to field day I would also like to organise some sort of fox hunt if there are enough interested parties if anyone wants to participate please contact me.

Stay safe

73

Jeff VE3JTD

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

February 2013 Treasurers Report

Balance February 01 2013	<u>\$1,656.75</u>
<u>Income</u>	
Total Income	<u>\$0.00</u>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Feb 11 Trailer cell phone	\$0.57
Total Expenses	<u>\$0.57</u>
Balance February 28 2013	<u>\$1,656.18</u>

<u>Trailer Account</u>		
	Previous Balance	\$653.25
<u>Income</u>		
February 28 2013	Interest	\$0.05
Total		\$653.30
<u>Expenses</u>		
		\$0.00
Total Expenses:		\$0.00
	Balance in Trailer Account	\$653.30

Term Account

Balance February 01 2013	\$2,024.42
Interest February 08 2013	\$0.67
Balance February 28 2013	\$2,025.09

Paul Curtin VA3PDC

Treasurer

March Equinox:
March 20, 2013,
11:02 UTC



Thanks to all the contributors to HI-Q this month...your contributions are very much appreciated by the Editor and our readers

March 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	Don't forget! ARES Net! Every Tuesday 7 pm on VE3YQT			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 LARC Meeting	15	16	17
18	19	20 Spring starts at 1102 UTC (7:02 ES- DT)	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Good Friday	30	31 Easter Sunday